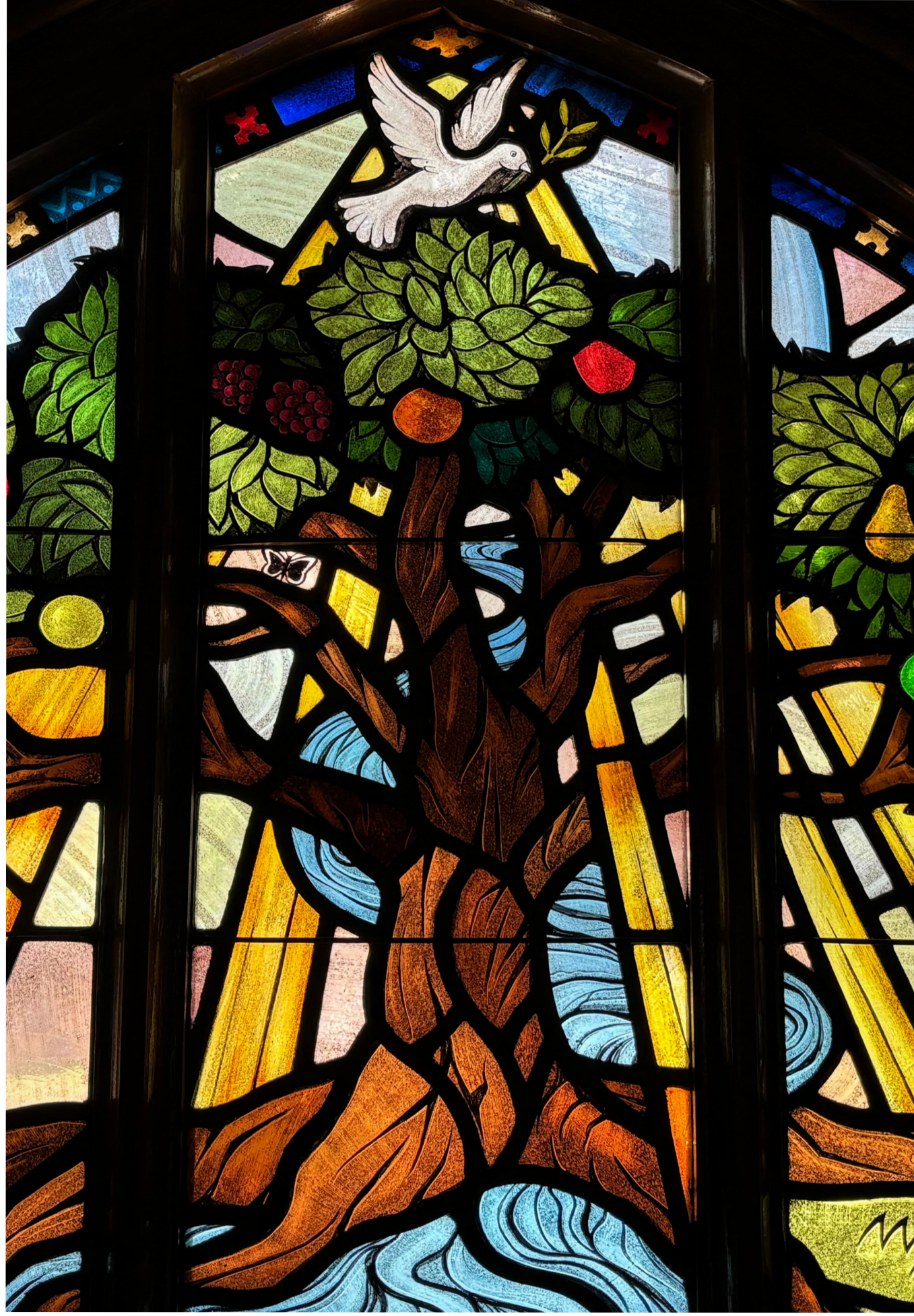


10:30 AM HOLY EUCHARIST: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD





EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the  
**HEAVENLY REST**

God's Love. For All.

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The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Thursday, December 25th, 2025

10:30 in the morning

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRELUDE**

*Pastorale from The Christmas Concerto*

Archangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

*Noël, Grand Jeu et Duo*

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

**CAROL IN PROCESSION** *O come, all ye faithful*

Hymn 83, verses 1-3, 6  
Tune: *Adeste fideles*

**THE OPENING ACCLAMATION**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant*

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE GLORIA** *Angels we have heard on high*

Hymn 96, verses 1, 3  
Tune: *Gloria*

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be  
born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children  
by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep  
darkness -- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the  
yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have  
broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments  
rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given  
to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be

endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL CAROL** *Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

Hymn 100, stanzas 1-2, 4

Tune: *Antioch*

**SECOND READING**

Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from the Letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE CAROL** *O little town of Bethlehem*

Hymn 79, stanzas 1-3

Tune: *St. Louis*

**THE GOSPEL** *King James Version*

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Amanda Watson, *Assistant Rector for Community Life*

*Following the sermon, all stand for*

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father,  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Deacon*

Beloved in Christ, as we hear again the message of the Angels, let us rejoice God's heart by praying for the needs of the whole world.

*All kneel or stand.*

*Intercessor*

I ask your prayers for peace and goodwill over all the earth, especially in this country and this community.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the mission and unity of the Church for which Christ died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor and the helpless; and for the hungry and the oppressed.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the sick and those who mourn; for the lonely and the unloved; and for the aged and the little children.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds this or another concluding Collect.*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All stand for*

## THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

### OFFERTORY HYMN *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Hymn 112  
Tune: *Cranham*

### PRESENTATION CAROL *God rest you merry, gentlemen*

Hymn 105  
Tune: *God Rest You Merry*

All things come of thee, O Lord.  
**And of thine own have we given thee.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is said.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### THE SANCTUS

S 125



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The People stand or kneel as they are able*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember his death,**  
**We proclaim his resurrection,**  
**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

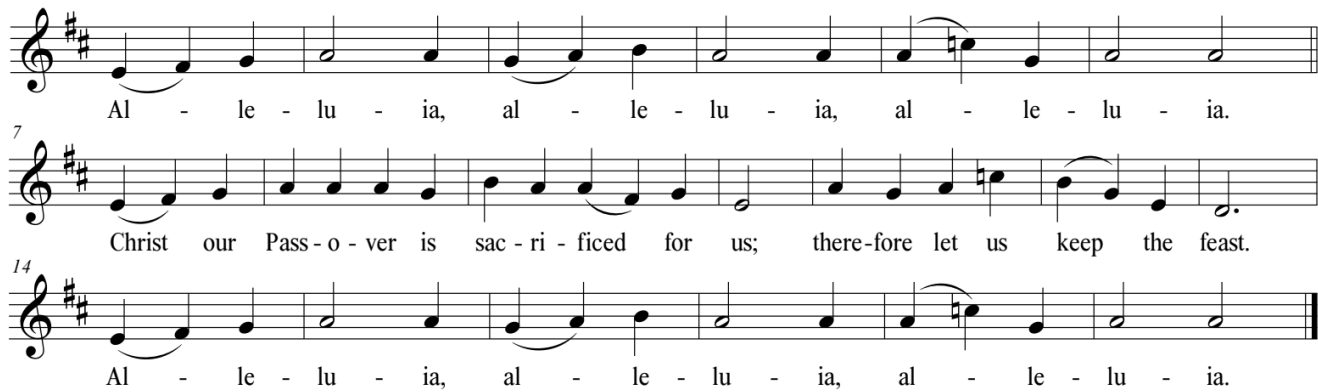
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven, Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread*



*The Celebrant proceeds*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION CAROLS

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Hymn 81, stanzas 1-2  
Tune: *Es ist ein Ros*

*Away in a manger*

Hymn 101  
Tune: *Cradle Song*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*All stand and sing*

CAROL IN PROCESSION *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Hymn 87  
Tune: *Mendelssohn*

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE *Postlude on MENDELSSOHN*

David Willcocks (1919-2015)







## ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE

The Tree of Life is one of the most resonant images in Scripture. Interestingly, it appears at both the very beginning and very end of the Bible. The Book of Genesis indicates that the Tree of Life was planted in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24), while the Book of Revelation describes the tree of life planted in the New Jerusalem: “On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2). The image of the Tree of Life points to God as the source of healing and wholeness, the one who sustains our life and the life of the world.

One of the more interesting Christmas carols in the literature is a text called “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” written by the Calvinist minister Richard Hutchins in the 18th century. The text describes the poet’s longing for the Tree of Life and all its benefits, ultimately concluding that it is Jesus who is the source of that healing and wholeness. It might seem to be an unusual text for a Christmas carol, until one considers the ways the story of the Nativity and the story of the Fall are intertwined. Medieval theology posited that sin entered into the world when Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; it stands to reason that sin will be redeemed through another tree, the Tree of Life. One of the most beautiful settings of this text is by the 20th century English composer Elizabeth Poston. Our choir sang Poston’s setting of this text at the IOPM service on Christmas Eve.

In the narthex (6th Street entrance) of Heavenly Rest, there is a window above the red doors depicting the Tree of Life. Situated as it is alongside a river, the image seems to refer primarily to the Tree of Life in Revelation. If you look closely at the image, you will see a variety of fruits, the most obvious of which are a pear and a bunch of bananas. The window was given in memory of Austin Denny, beloved son, brother and uncle who died in 2011, as well as Gerri and Bruce Denny, who were longtime members and leaders in this parish.

In a world that can often feel chaotic and uncertain, the image of the Tree of Life reminds us that we are rooted in a faith that sustains us through all the challenges of life. May this reminder comfort us this Christmas, and throughout the coming year.

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.*

## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

*Celebrant* - The Rev. David Romanik, *Rector*

*Preacher* - Amanda Watson, *Assistant Rector for Community Life*

*Deacon* - The Rev. Joe Biles, *Deacon and Pastoral Assistant*

*Organist* - Thomas Pavlechko

*Verger* - Luke Teten

*Lay Minister* - Tom Choate

*Acolytes* - CeCe Romanik, Emily Brumley

*Sound* - Kathy Hale



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602 Meander Street      Phone: (325) 677-2091  
Abilene, Texas 79602      Email: [info@heavenlyrestabilene.org](mailto:info@heavenlyrestabilene.org)  
Website: [heavenlyrestabilene.org](http://heavenlyrestabilene.org)      Social media: @heavenlyrestabilene

### CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend David F. Romanik, <i>Rector</i>	Carol Ann Weston, <i>Director of Children &amp; Family Ministries</i>
The Reverend Ashley Powers, <i>Associate Rector</i>	Thomas Pavlechko, <i>Organist and Director of Music</i>
The Reverend Amanda Watson, <i>Assistant Rector for Community Life</i>	Elizabeth Knauer, <i>Music Assistant, Choristers</i>
The Reverend Karen Boyd, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	Laura Dickson, <i>Music Assistant, Children's Choir</i>
The Reverend Dr. Doug Thomas, <i>Priest in Residence</i>	Jen Rogers, <i>Director of Communications and Stewardship</i>
The Reverend Dr. Russell Dickerson, <i>Deacon</i>	Lydia Hurt, <i>Parish Manager</i>
The Reverend Joe Biles, <i>Deacon and Pastoral Assistant</i>	Brenda Fisher, <i>Parish Accountant</i>
Bikole Mulanda, <i>Swahili Minister</i>	Robert Becerra, <i>Sexton</i>
Luke Teten, <i>Verger</i>	Dorothy Guerra, <i>Housekeeper</i>
	Anne Jones, <i>Nursery Manager</i>

### VESTRY AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Kate Haney, *Senior Warden*; Harry Hurt, *Junior Warden*; Sharon Lawler, *Secretary*; David Christianson, Michael Christie, Dru Hall, Diane Stearns, Kimberly Brumley, Jay Hardaway, Norene Mansell, John Nichols, Mary Reyes, Elizabeth Niblo Wallace, *Chancellor*; and Sam Cutbirth, *Treasurer*